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et les comprend mieux, et, si, en arrivant à un Congrès, on est simplement au milieu de confrères, quand on se sépare à la fin ce sont des amis qu'il faut quitter.

Le Congrès de 1886 aura lieu à Nantes.

X.

II.

EXCAVATIONS IN MALTA.

[The following extracts from a letter of the U. S. consul at Malta to the Secretary of the Archæological Institute call attention to the island as a fruitful and little-known field, which neither the English government nor the local administration take any pains to explore. Formerly, when, by accident, any discoveries were made, the government of the island bore the expense of clearing them of rubbish, but this action was fitful and unreliable, and even this has been abandoned of late years. In consequence of this apathy, every year witnesses the destruction of some newly-discovered antiquities. Ed.]

Mr. A. L. Frothingham, Jr., Sec. Arch. Inst. of America.

Dr. Caruana and many other persons interested in an intelligent exploration of the island, such as your Society might make, hope that you will consider favorably the advisability of undertaking systematic excavations. Besides the Phœnician, Roman and early-Christian periods, there are others equally interesting for the history of these islands, as the Byzantine, the Arabian (including a very rich Cufic paleography), the Norman, and that of the Knights of St. John.

As recently as January 1882, Dr. Caruana called the attention of the Maltese government to the fact that the decay of the ruins which had been unearthed would be inevitable unless they were given intelligent and official supervision, and he also pointed out that objects of high archæological value were found, on almost every site where excavations were carried on, by workmen who either destroyed them, through ignorance of their value, or sold them for trifling sums. The richest and choicest collections of Phœnician pottery are owned by private individuals in the island; that in the public museum being comparatively the poorest. But, numerous as these small private collections are, they are nothing to what might still be unearthed. The neglect of Malta as an archæological "bonanza" is deplorable. I visited the remains of an ancient temple recently, those of *Hagiar Kim* ("the Stones of Veneration"), and while there a boy brought me a piece of a broken altar which he slyly offered to sell me for a sixpence: this is but to show how little care is taken to protect this most interesting ruin from vandalism.

I remain, etc.,

JOHN WORTHINGTON.